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Europäisches
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Zweigstelle
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European
Patent Office

Branch at
The Hague
Search
division

Office européen
des brevets

Département à
La Haye
Division de la
recherche

Winter, Brandl, Fürniss, Hübner, Röss,

Kaiser, Polte

Partnerschaft

Patent- und Rechtsanwaltskanzlei

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ALLEMAGNE

Eing.: 25. Juni 2003

PREISING

Datum/Date

20. 06. 2003

Frist:

Zeichen/Ref./Réf.

560L0635

Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°.

01122385.6

Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Propriétaire/Titulaire

Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits

- ☒ the European search report
- ☐ the declaration under Rule 45 EPC
- ☐ the partial European search report under Rule 45 EPC
- ☐ the supplementary European search report concerning the international application under Article 157(2) EPC relating to the above-mentioned European patent application. Copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division :

- ☒ Abstract ☒ Title ☒ Figure
- ☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.
- ☐ The following figure will be published with the abstract, since the Search Division considers that it better characterises the invention than the one indicated by the applicant.

Figure:

- ☒ Additional copy(copies) of the documents cited in the European search report.

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.



EPO Form 1507 02.93



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	US 5 235 459 A (MEYER MANFRED ET AL) 10 August 1993 (1993-08-10) * abstract; figures 1,6,7 *	1,2	G02B21/00 G02B21/36
A	---	3-15	
X	WO 98 14816 A (LUCAS BRIAN RONALD ;CELL ROBOTICS INC (US); CONIA JEROME (US); WOL) 9 April 1998 (1998-04-09) * abstract * * column 7, line 3 - line 6 * * column 8, line 18 - line 19 * * column 28, line 32 - line 35 * * column 29, line 1 - line 3 *	1,2	
A	---	3-15	
X	AFZAL R S ET AL: "OPTICAL TWEEZERS USING A DIODE LASER" REVIEW OF SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS. NEW YORK, US, vol. 63, no. 4, 1 April 1992 (1992-04-01), pages 2157-2163, XP000300697 ISSN: 0034-6748 * section II A * * figure 1 *	1,2	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) G02B
A	---	3-15	
X	US 4 685 776 A (INOUE YASUO ET AL) 11 August 1987 (1987-08-11) * abstract; figures *	1,2	
A	---	3-15	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 25 April 2003	Examiner Seibert, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Y	US 4 626 906 A (ENSOR DONALD R) 2 December 1986 (1986-12-02) * abstract * * column 2, line 16 - line 22 * * column 4, line 37 - line 42 * * column 9, line 17 - line 18 * * figures 1,2,6,7,9,10 *	4,5	
A	---	6,9-11	
Y	DE 196 35 666 C (KAPITZA HANS GEORG DR) 18 December 1997 (1997-12-18) * abstract * * column 3, line 8 - line 26 * * column 3, line 43 - line 50 * * column 5, line 17 - line 21 * * column 6, line 61 - line 68 * * column 7, line 1 - line 4 * * figures *	4,5	
A	---	6,9-11	
A	US 5 481 401 A (KITA NOBUHIRO ET AL) 2 January 1996 (1996-01-02) * column 10, line 58 - line 67 * * column 11, line 1 - line 31 * * figures 1,4-7,9,16 *	1,2,4,5, 7,8	
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A	US 4 143 938 A (FEINBLOOM RICHARD E) 13 March 1979 (1979-03-13) * abstract; figures *	1,2,7,8, 12-15	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
A	---		
A	US 4 567 478 A (SCHWAB KLAUS) 28 January 1986 (1986-01-28) * figure 1 *	1,2, 12-15	
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A	US 5 579 156 A (FALTERMEIER BERND ET AL) 26 November 1996 (1996-11-26) * abstract; figures 1,3A *	1,2,4,5, 12-15	

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 25 April 2003	Examiner Seibert, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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EPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04C01)



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
A	US 3 709 582 A (WALKER B) 9 January 1973 (1973-01-09) * figures 1,2 *	4-6,9-11	
A	DE 721 942 C (ZEISS CARL FA) 24 June 1942 (1942-06-24) * figure *	1,2,12	
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 25 April 2003	Examiner Seibert, J
<div>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</div> <div><div>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</div><div>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</div></div>			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-3,7,8,12-15

Inverted microscope with attachable/detachable cameras.

2. Claims: 4-6,9-11

Inverted microscope with builtin image display.



CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

☒ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 01 12 2385

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

25-04-2003

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

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